Leicester, Mass^tts, Feb. 28/63.

Dear Mr. Webb;

Last evening I came from Boston, having been engaged in the forenoon in putting up, and forwarding to Steamship Office a parcel addressed to you, in care S. R. Graves, Baltic building, Liverpool; (I go on, sending to Mr. Grades's care, having no different instructions from you;) & I will, while it is fresh in my mind, note the contents & destination of the parcel. 1. The tracts, "Right Way, Safe Way" are for Eliza Wigham, sent at her request. 2. The Speeches of Gerrit Smith, & the Facts Concerning the Freedmen, are for distribution at your discretion. I should like to have a few of each go to E. Wigham, and to M. A. Estlin. 3. Two photograph views of Music Hall, as arranged for the Subscription Anniversary - one for yourself if you will please accept it from me, and the other I will thank you to send to Miss Estlin. (I don't know that you will care anything about such a view, but I thought it might help give you a notion of the place, on the day following we held our Annual State Soc'y Meeting in same Hall.) 4. Several parcels forwarded to our office months ago, when H. C. Wright was thinking of a voyage to England, - & which no particular opportunity has offered for sending, since. 5. Parcels of the Standard and Liberator, containing Mrs. Child's Report of the "Anniversary" - to be forwarded some as directed, and the remainder as you think best. 6. Some copies of Wm. W. Brown's recent book, "The Black Man", addressed to several friends. - And a copy of the Book of Hymns, which your Sir Alfred asked for. We hope he will not take it amiss that we send it as a gift, - or rather as a small acknowledgement of our indebtedness for his services to the American Soc'y, & the Standard. We were glad to know of something which would prove acceptable to him. - There are also 3 little packets of photographs, from W. C. Garrison

for yourself, James Haughton, & Maria Waring Palmer. – These comprise, I believe, the entire contents of the parcel, which I trust will reach you safely, & in good order. I shall want to hear from it. – You have latterly been paying all your postage charges, even when sending us donations! Pray have all these included in account with us; and so also in future, or leave the postage for me to pay. 'Exchange' between your Country & ours has now reached the fearful figure of 85% premium; and our own gold is selling at an advance of 71%; (i.e. it takes $1.71 of our paper currency to buy a gold dollar.–) Our most skilful financiers are puzzled at the peculiar state of affairs. Silver has utterly disappeared, as a circulating medium.

C. K. Whipple asked me, a few days since, if I thought an article from him, in review of W. H. Rupell's book, would be acceptable for the April "Advocate". I told him I had no doubt at all, that it would be, and I expect to be able to enclose it to you with this. He likes Rupell's book, as a whole, & will have a good share of commendation for it.

Monday, March 2d.

I wrote to you an off-hand, rapid letter, a fortnight since, simply to express to you the very great pleasure we were having in the reports of the great Exeter Hall Emancipation Meeting in London. The effect of that meeting, in this country, has been immense. – I think I may, not extravagantly, say. All our loyal papers, so far as I am aware, have given space to notices or reports of it; & as for those of the other sort, it can only confirm them in the belief they had begun, reluctantly, to entertain, that they must abandon hope of recognition at the hands of Gr. Britain. Even the London Times itself seems to have received a stound

from that meeting, and – as I have to-day seen – tells the "Confederates" that when "the Federals" leave, or are driven from, every portion of the territory claimed by the former, then may the question of recognition be entertained by England, "and not till then"! Old comfort for the Confederates, – for that is a day they are not likely to see. The hold of our Government in the Rebel States is getting firmer & stronger, – save in N. Orleans, where the maudlin, coaxing policy of Gen. Banks is likely to put everything at hazard, creating the universal wish (with all the friends of the country) that Genl. Butler had never been removed, & that he might be forthwith restored to the command there. – But, to go back to London, – how spiteful it was in the "Lord Mayor" to bring Mason to his Civic dinner, and how amusing it was to see the "Times" (!) put its foot upon the whole proceeding, saying, in almost Mr. Toots's own words, "it's of no consequence". Surely some change has come over the "Times"? You asked me, some time since, if I regularly saw the "Daily News". I very seldom see it, or the Times either; but its articles are frequently copied in our papers, – the most I think of any English journal, after the Times; and the early telegraphic despatches from Newfoundland (obtained by boarding the Steamers when they first come upon the coast,) almost always give the pith of the News's leaders.

While I think of it, let me ask, Are you sure you sent me 75 copies of the John Brown Life? If so, – as careful & repeated counting at first opening of the box showed only 74 copies – one must have been abstracted – as toll – by the Custom House officers! I can account for its absence in no other way.

What you wrote to the Standard (of the 14th ult.) touching the capital blunder of the Times, in undertaking to palliate & justify Slavery, from the Scriptures, confirmed, & was confirmed by, letters from England in other journals at the same time

So the servants of Evil are almost invariably left, by the
Master they serve, to commit some great blunder, or stu
into some snare, from which no protestations, or profess
or blusterings, can afterwards extricate them. — I see
found a good deal of comfort in an article from the Newfo
Times - a paper which has done some good service to the
Northern cause, but which has vacillated so much between
& opposition to the Government, between a radical & a compro
policy, that it has been said its purchasers inquire of the newsbo
"Well, boy, is the Times to-day Democratic or Republican?" Its sup
are mainly those who hate the Moral radicalisms of the Fr
and who believe in making good trades in politics. Never
I repeat my belief that the N.Y. Times has rendered much go
service to the right side since the war broke out. - As to its
ment, and the statement of your correspondent whom yo
quote, I must say I don't think them particularly ger
or pertinent to the questions which, mainly, have been bet
the two nations, — ours & yours. For it is not, & never has been,
of sympathy with the Northern side of which we have comp
bur of superabundance of sympathy, gross, palpable, like a mo
for the Confederates, for the Southern side, for the Slaveholde
& their audacious attempts; - of immense supplies conveyed
them, - of aid, comfort, & encouragement in their most vi
purposes, which English wealth, skill, & talent have afford
to them, with the Connivance of the British Government. Th
the point, and there's the rub; - and as Bright, Hughes, Pr
Newman, Baptist Noel, (all of them, I believe) & many more,
fully admitted these things, & strongly censured them, I do not
any argument is needed on the point. That the North has come al
very slowly, & to the exceeding trial of all honest patience, is not
that it is yet far off from a truly just & elevated position cannot be den
but that an immensely strong Anti-S. element has been in it, from
first, is equally true - that our British A.S. friends to a great degree
confidence in that element is, I sincerely fear, equally true (always excep
George Thompson) - that some of them have censured us, we know;

& disappointment;
has caused us very great surprise, for we saw others, in England & on the Continent, less acquainted (as we supposed) with the real position of the North, & with the nature of the difficulties we had to contend with, who from the first saw the real grounds of the Contest; the Slavery of the South dreading, & seeking to escape, the Anti-Slavery of the North, & believing the time was ripe, & all means ready, to establish upon Slavery and the African Slave Trade a new Empire, swallowing up all the rich, cotton-producing lands surrounding the Gulf of Mexico, &c. —

But all these things are, we hope & trust, by-gones. At last that deep, full, distinct, unmistakeable utterance of long-established (in which we had always heretofore believed as all strong things certain)
British opinion & conviction is heard. The sentiments, both in
also
behalf of freedom as against every form of Slavery and of genuine good-will and sympathy to this country, appear to be extensive and emphatic. The Manchester Meeting & Address were the fit opening, and have been grandly followed up at London, Glasgow, Bristol, &c. The last Liberator (Feb. 27) groups some of these documents, & they make a telling story, & a most animating one to us. They go far to completely re-assure us on those points where we had become despondent & almost despairing of England. — You
perhaps doubtless wonder at us for having ever entertained such misgivings. If you do, let me ask you to turn to the Address of the "Union and Emancipation Society of Manchester", as published in Liberator of Feb. 27, and read the 2d & 3d paragraphs, from "We emphatically repudiate" — to — "downfall of the great republic". You will find there, I think, ground & reason enough for the feelings which for a long time in this country were all but universal toward England. Thank God that the scales have fallen from so many eyes; and all thanks to those men (among whom your friend Prof. Cairnes is in the front rank) who, in the darkest hour of our situation, resolved to throw themselves — few though they might be — as a barrier in the way of falsehood, treachery, pro-slavery, & general moral confusion. They have not labored in vain. No! but their labours have proved almost a miracle of success. May the good work go on in your country, and may our people & government also go on, & justify the friendly regards and the generous confidence of these great souls of Europe. — Indeed we are not yet clear of pro-slavery entanglements, & are extranxious;

You very kindly give me leave to appropriate the extra amounts rec'd. on your bills of Exchange (by of the high premium obtained on such) as I may judge bes the good of the cause. And I see no other way so fair & just ~~dispose~~ pay the whole sums received directly to the objects designed, to each its proportion of the premium; indeed, for any other course should have to set up some arbitrary rule; and I should always my right to divert any portion, even of the premium extra, from t object indicated, unless it were to pay it to you, as a commissio fairly earned for collection. I have, in accordance with you letter, paid over the amts. rec'd. from you, premium & all, to the seve specified papers, or Societies. And the amt. gained by them is n great in reality, as in appearance. The rise in the cost of nea everything we have to purchase, consequent on the depreciation of circulating currency, goes far to ~~remove~~ cancel the apparent in of receipts. Printing-paper - a very great item of course with the d Liberator - has more than doubled in price within the last 8 month keeps up, now, very stiffly, at this rate of increase. — We are deeply grieved at the heavy loss of money to which you have been subjected. [How often - like other foolish mortals - I have wished I had a go round sum of money to dispose of! I do know of so many ways in w I imagine - I could do a power of good by it. How well I should like you a good bill for £500. this moment. And I have an uncle, liv England, a very upright, hard-working man, yet in very straitened cir stances. We are able to do a little for his excellent family, but nothing could wish to do. Then George Thompson, we suppose, is really ha pushed to get on in the world. I hear that one of the Boston daily pape once sneered & snarled at G. T. whenever it mentioned him, now says h deserves a handsome testimonial from America, for the very great ser he has rendered the American Cause. I hope it may not end in talk. I s there is a movement in London to give him some token. But this is a v kind of digression.] I wish you may be able to retrieve your loss. — An reminds me of that matter of Gilroy's, and his impudent levy upon I thought, some 6 months ago, I had got track of him, and I put a friend Lowell on the search, - but in vain. — You mention sending me the Ed^n of Cairnes's lecture. It has not yet come to hand. — We think you all like Pres. Lincoln's Reply to the Manchester Address. We do. It needed to be good, to be a fitting reply to that masterly paper. —